Activities of MCC and PWG in Orissa

1091. MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that activities of banned MCC and PWG outfits in the districts of Malakanagiri, Rayagada, Koraput and Gajapati districts of Orissa are going on unabated;

(b) whether the cash-strapped State of Orissa cannot raise sufficient para-military forces to combat this menace and the State has requested the Centre for help in the matter; and

(c) if so, the help rendered by the Centre in the matter specially to constitute Grey Hound battalions on the pattern of Andhra Pradesh to control these activities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SWAMI CHINMAYANAND): (a) The CPML-People's War continues to remain active in large tracts of Malkangiri, Gajapati, Rayagada and Koraput districts of South Orissa. During the Year (upto July 15), there were 27 incidents (3 deaths) in the State.

(b) and (c) Keeping in view the overall dimensions of left wing extremist activities in some States, a high level Coordition Centre, headed by the Union Home Secretary, regularly reviews and coordinates steps taken by the States to check left extremist activities. Besides, the Central Government provides financial assistance, shares actionable intelligence and deploys CPMFs on a need basis to combat the problem of naxalism. Presently, 1 Battalion and 3 Coys of CRPF have been deployed in the State. The Central Government reimburses to the extent of 100% of initiate expenditure incurred by the States in raising of IR Battalion in combating naxalism under the scheme of Security Related Expenditure (SRE).

Proposal to form Southern Economic Zone

1092. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to form a Southern Economic Zone of four States alongwith Union Territory of Pondicherry; and